



NOAA FISHERIES

Sustainable Fisheries

2014 Quarter 2 Update through June 30, 2014

2014 Quarter 2 Score = 640.5 (April 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014)

Overview

The Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI) is a performance measure for the sustainability of 227¹ U.S. fish stocks² selected for their importance to commercial and recreational fisheries. The FSSI will increase as stock status becomes known, overfishing is ended, and stocks increase to the level that provides maximum sustainable yield.

FSSI Scoring Method

The FSSI is calculated by assigning a score for each fish stock based on the five following criteria:

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
1. “Overfished” status is known	0.5
2. “Overfishing” status is known	0.5
3. Overfishing is not occurring (for stocks with known “overfishing” status)	1.0
4. Stock biomass is above the “overfished” level defined for the stock	1.0
5. Stock biomass is at or above 80% of the biomass that produces maximum sustainable yield (B_{MSY}) ³ (this point is in addition to the point awarded for being above the “overfished” level)	1.0

The maximum score each stock may receive is 4. The value of the FSSI is the sum of all 227¹ individual stock scores. The maximum total FSSI score is 920, achieved if all 227¹ stocks were to each receive a score of 4.

¹ The FSSI previously contained 230 stocks. Gulf of Mexico stone crab and little tunny are no longer managed under federal fishery management plans (FMPs), and Gulf of Mexico black grouper is now managed as a combined Gulf of Mexico/South Atlantic stock under the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish and Snapper-Grouper FMPs. To provide continuity in the FSSI, the final point score for these 3 stocks remains in the index until FY 2015.

² The majority of species are assessed as a single stock; however, there are a few that are assessed as a stock complex, which contain a group of species with similar geographic distribution, co-occurrence in fisheries, and life history.

³ Stocks rebuilding from a previously overfished condition are not awarded the fourth point until they reach B_{MSY} , as mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. After they have been fully rebuilt, they may fluctuate within the 80% parameter and retain the score of 4 like the other non-rebuilding stocks.

Summary of Changes for FSSI stocks from April 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014

Stock	Region	Previous Status	Current Status	Previous FSSI Score	Current FSSI Score
Butterfish - Gulf of Maine / Cape Hatteras	MAFMC	Overfished – Unknown	Not Overfished Rebuilt ¹	1.5	4
Tilefish - Mid-Atlantic Coast	MAFMC	Not Overfished – Rebuilding	Rebuilt	3	4
Wreckfish - Southern Atlantic Coast	SAFMC	Overfished – Unknown	Not Overfished $B/B_{MSY} > 80\%$	1.5	4
Snowy grouper - Southern Atlantic Coast	SAFMC	Subject to Overfishing	Not Subject to Overfishing	1	2
Albacore - North Atlantic	HMS	Subject to Overfishing Overfished	Not Subject to Overfishing Not Overfished - Rebuilding	1	3
Total FSSI Score				631.5	640.5

- Although butterfish was previously listed as overfished – unknown, it was under rebuilding measures because it had previously been listed as overfished.

FSSI Stocks through June 30, 2014

Overview of overfishing status

- 196 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfishing status. Of these:
 - 173 stocks or stock complexes are not subject to overfishing.
 - 23 stocks or stock complexes have a fishing mortality rate that exceeds the overfishing threshold (i.e., is subject to overfishing).
- 31 stocks or stock complexes have overfishing thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfishing status.

Overview of overfished status

- 183 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfished status. Of these:
 - 148 stocks or stock complexes are not overfished (4 of these stocks are approaching an overfished condition).
 - 35 stocks or stock complexes are overfished.
- 44 stocks or stock complexes have overfished thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfished status.

Non-FSSI Stocks through June 30, 2014

Summary of Changes for non-FSSI stocks from April 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014

Stock	Region	Previous Status	Current Status
Northern Pacific Coast Minor Nearshore Rockfish Complex		Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing
Northern Pacific Coast Minor Shelf Rockfish Complex		Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing
Northern Pacific Coast Minor Slope Rockfish Complex		Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing
Pacific Coast Other Flatfish Complex		Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing
Pacific Coast Other Groundfish Complex		Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing
Southern Pacific Coast Minor Nearshore Rockfish Complex		Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing
Southern Pacific Coast Minor Shelf Rockfish Complex		Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing
Southern Pacific Coast Minor Slope Rockfish Complex		Overfishing – Unknown	Not subject to overfishing

Overview of overfishing status

- 112 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfishing status. Of these:
 - 109 stocks or stock complexes are not subject to overfishing
 - 3 stocks have a fishing mortality rate that exceeds the overfishing threshold (i.e., is subject to overfishing).
- 140 stocks or stock complexes have overfishing thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfishing status.

Overview of overfished status

- 50 stocks or stock complexes are known with respect to their overfished status. Of these:
 - 46 stocks or stock complexes are not overfished (1 of these stocks is approaching an overfished condition).
 - 4 stocks are overfished.
- 202 stocks or stock complexes have overfished thresholds not defined or applicable, or are unknown with respect to their overfished status.

FSSI stock status updates are posted quarterly at:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/statusoffisheries/SOSmain.htm#07>